

SHERIDAN.

Only Twenty Miles from Richmond.

Total Destruction of Beaver Mills Aqueduct of the James River Canal.

Our Cavalry Doubled South of the James and Marching on the Danville Railroad.

Richmond Entirely Cut Off from Railroad and River Communication.

Interesting Rebel Accounts of Sheridan's Success.

The Rebels Give General Hunter's Official Report of His Captures.

Death of Commodore Hollins Acknowledged.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch. Richmond, Va., March 13, 1865. The latest information sent you regarding Gen. Sheridan's movements left him at Columbia, only forty miles from Richmond. He has since been pushing ahead toward the city. Of this latter fact there is no doubt, though the story of his being at Meadow bridge, which, your readers will recollect, spans the Calhoun river just west of Richmond, early this morning, is not so worthy of credence. If, however, it be not literally true at the present time, it may prove to be so within twenty-four or forty-eight hours. There being no cavalry to impede his progress, or to move from point to point with sufficient celerity to divide his intention or jeopardize his safety, Sheridan can select his route of travel and approach without cannon shot of the defense of the city with impunity.

It is generally supposed that he will circle around the city, menacing its defenses at all points, destroying all public property possible, and probably touch at White House, or some adjacent point to which supplies could reach him by water. As this all will be determined long in advance of the receipt of this despatch, there can be no impropriety in mentioning its probability and feasibility. The Union Generals Kelly and Crook were received in exchange to-day by Colonel Mulford, and arrived at City Point this afternoon, en route for the North.

Our Special Washington Despatch. Washington, March 14, 1865. There is a report that Sheridan, unable to cross the James with his pontoons, on account of the high stage of water, has gone north and east of Richmond to the White House, and that Grant has sent a force to meet him and insure his safe junction with the army of the Potomac and James. No credit is attached to this report, as it is believed that Sheridan had crossed the James when his despatch was written to Grant from Columbia, and had already destroyed the Danville road at Burkeville, and by this time either joined General Hunter or proceeded on his way to clear the road for Sherman's advance.

Mr. Charles H. Farrell's Despatch.

Mr. Charles H. Farrell's Despatch. Winchester, Va., March 13, 1865. A detachment of five hundred men, of General Tilden's brigade, of the Second division, consisting of detachments from the Fourteenth and Eighteenth Pennsylvania and Twenty-first New York cavalry regiments, the whole under the command of Major Olin, of the Twenty-first New York, were sent up the valley two days ago, by command of Major General Hancock, to seek tidings of General Sheridan and his raiding expedition. They proceeded as far as Edenburg, thirty-five miles from here, returning yesterday to camp without any direct news from the raiders, although diligent inquiry was made on the route of march. On the trip the rebel soldiers were captured. They were a portion of General Early's late army, who escaped from Waynesboro and went to the mountains.

They assert that Early's army, including Rosser's cavalry, are dispersed or disorganized, and that Louisa's cavalry and Marshall Jackson's command, both of which are east of the Blue Ridge, are the only troops left to confront General Sheridan, with other troops that might be sent from Richmond.

Deserters from the rebel army are daily coming within our lines, take the oath of allegiance, are furnished food and transportation, and then sent to any point North, East or West, they may elect. One of these deserters, who came in here day before yesterday, whose family resides in the valley, and who left Richmond ten days ago, states that at that time General Lee had ordered that all surplus army stores, not necessary for immediate use, were to be sent into the interior—Danville and Lynchburg—for safety. The inhabitants not engaged in military pursuits were fast departing the city and seeking asylum elsewhere.

Our Despatcher at Richmond Reports. I again refer to the statement made a few weeks ago, that if Lee is obliged to leave Richmond the city will be burned and blown up. Not a stone will be left, if Lee so prevent it, as a memorial of the place where the city now stands.

Sheridan's Progress and Exploits. It is also stated by deserters from the upper valley, that General Sheridan had captured Charlottesville and Gordonsville, capturing prisoners at both places, and had destroyed the James River Canal, blowing up the locks and masonry for a distance of four miles, commencing at a point near Scottsville, fifteen miles south of Charlottesville, to Rockfish creek. At last accounts he was reported to be in the vicinity of Melrose station, on the Virginia Central Railroad, eighty miles North of Lynchburg.

The Weather and Condition of the Country. The weather in the valley of the Shenandoah for the last week has been fair, the rivers, streams and creeks have fallen to the usual stage of water, and the plows and roads are in good traveling condition.

Accident. Captain Elwood O. Grant, General Sheridan's headquarters Commissary of Subsistence, was thrown from his horse day before yesterday, and had his arm fractured. He was attended by Dr. Wagner, the post surgeon.

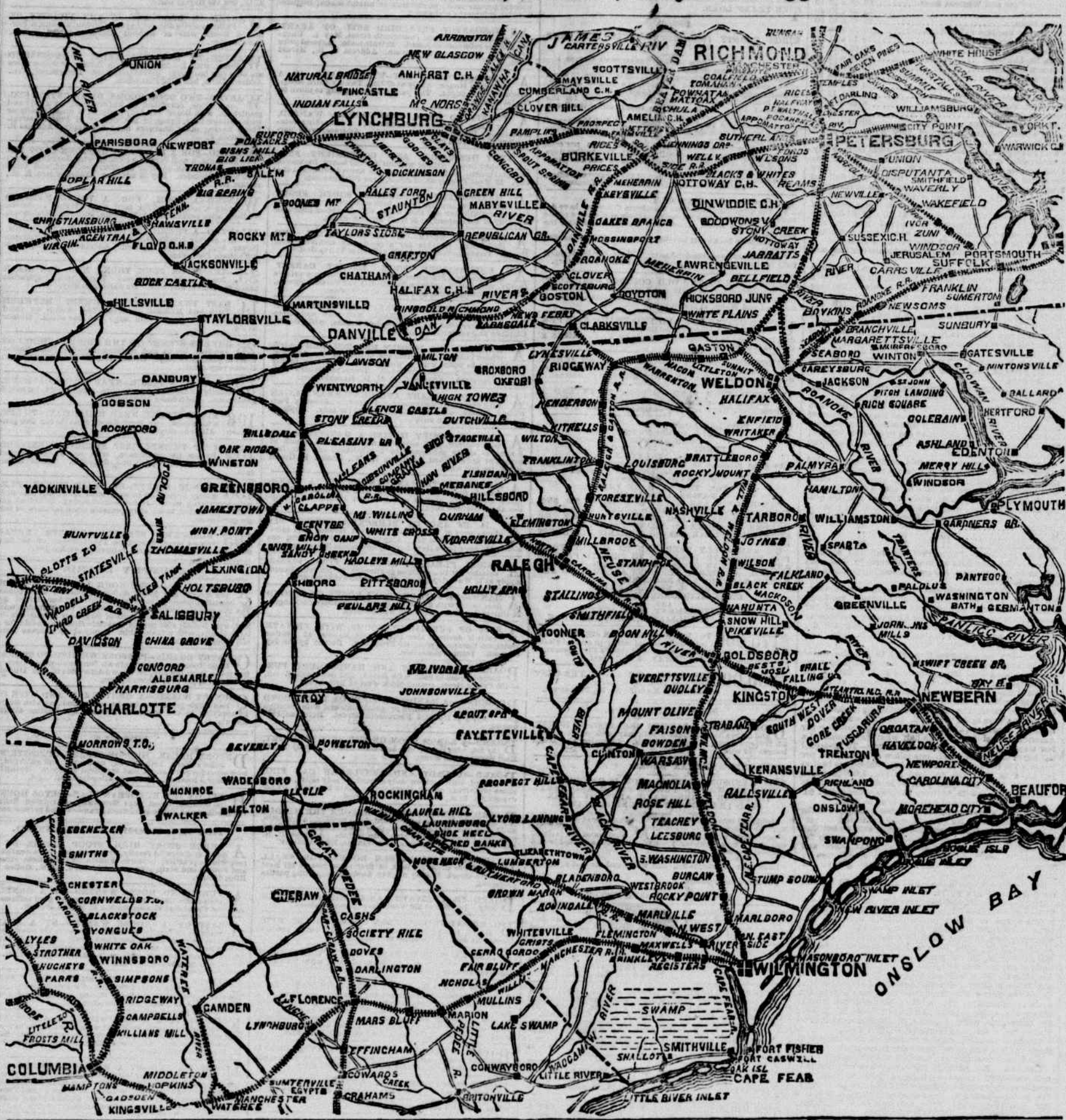
Preparation for Spring Operations. Great activity prevails in this department, preparing for the spring campaign. The troops are in excellent discipline, and anxious to move forward to confront the enemy.

Key Command of the Army of West Virginia. Brigadier General B. Sprigg Carroll is now in command of the Army of West Virginia, headquarters at Cumberland.

Railroad Accident. An accident occurred on the Winchester and Potomac Railroad on the 11th inst.; a stock train ran off the track, killing a number of cavalry horses.

The Press Despatch. A returned Union prisoner, who reached Annapolis to-day, reported that the rebels were preparing to move on the 11th inst.

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THE MILITARY SITUATION.
Scene of Present Operations of the Union Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Schofield, and the Rebel Generals Lee, Johnston, Early and Bragg.

day direct from Richmond, communicates some interesting intelligence in relation to the state of affairs at Richmond and Sheridan's movements. He says he was confined in Castle Thunder, and through the friends of Union citizens incarcerated there obtained much information relative to events transpiring, about which Richmond papers are silent.

On Saturday night last Richmond was thrown into a state of intense excitement by the announcement that Sheridan was near the city. The alarm bells were rung, and all the home guards and every available man that could be spared was hurried off to repel the Unionists, who were said to be at Beaver Mills Aqueduct, on the James river, some twenty miles from the city, destroying the canal, the main feeder of Richmond.

The excitement continued all night, and increased to a panic throughout Sunday and down to Monday morning. When he left the alarm still prevailed. It was understood that Sheridan had succeeded in the destruction of the aqueduct, blowing it up with gunpowder, and it would take at least six months to repair the damage done by him.

During Sunday afternoon Pickett's division passed Castle Thunder in great haste on the way to meet Sheridan.

There was a ferry near the aqueduct, and it was believed that Sheridan's purpose was to cross the James, and strike the Danville road near the coal beds, where there is an extensive bridge, destroy that, and thus complete the destruction of communication with Richmond, and then make a junction with Grant.

Movements indicating a preparation for an abandonment of Richmond have been in progress for some time. The heavy machinery for manufacturing iron has been removed, also the machinery of their percussion cap manufactory, and all the carpenters in town were at work filling large government orders for packing boxes. The high water in the James had subsided so much that the boat which conveys prisoners from Richmond could not pass above Rocketts, as she had been doing previously. From this circumstance it is hoped that Sheridan will find less difficulty in crossing the streams in his line of march.

were generally blinded, and but for the rabble of negroes and mean, low bred white women on the streets, every one would have been killed. The rebels were not for the love of the negro that induced them to take away the slaves; but it was to prevent agricultural operations from being carried on, this being the most effective means of making the rebellion self-sustaining.

While the Yankee army was in Charlottesville they circulated reports that Lynchburg was captured, Richmond evacuated, &c.; but none but weak headed and weak kneed persons gave credence to any such stories. They said there were fifteen thousand cavalry with them; but five thousand would cover all they had. General Sheridan, Hunter, Merritt and Forsyth were with the invaders. If there were other generals I have not heard their names.

On leaving the town they separated into four columns, taking as many different directions as possible. The columns went to Scottsville, destroying the factory there and the canal. The paper alluded to in the above letter bore the above title, but the enterprising publishers, it seems, had not time to get out a full sheet, and they issued a "galley," or one column. The contents consisted of advertisements offering rewards for "My boy John," and "My man Roger," described as runaways; special orders to bury the dead, and to take care of the wounded, &c. &c. "Personal" appears, the object of which is to open a correspondence with some young lady of Charlottesville, with a view to matrimony. The following appears over the name of "The Virginian":

Report of property captured and destroyed by the Third cavalry division, March 2, 1865. CAPTURED—Eleven pieces of artillery, fifty-four double shot artillery harness, six caissons, nine forges, eight hundred horses and mules, one hundred and twenty army wagons, fifteen ambulances, two hundred and twenty-five double shot wagon harness, fifteen double shot ambulance harness, one ambulance wagon and harness.

DESTROYED—Four railroad cars, one loaded with supplies; two railroad bridges, thirty army wagons, one hundred and twenty army wagons, fifteen ambulances, two hundred and twenty-five double shot wagon harness, fifteen double shot ambulance harness, one ambulance wagon and harness.

Report of property captured and destroyed by the Third cavalry division, March 3, 1865. CAPTURED—Three ten-pound Parrott guns, one six-pound gun. DESTROYED—Four railroad bridges, three cars, containing supplies of leather, shoes, saddles, horse shoe nails and shovels. Brevet Major General Commanding, S. W. BARRETT, Captain and A. A. G. A piece of "poetry" on Jeff. Davis, and a piece of a gang of Union cavalry, who were captured and killed at the battle of the Shenandoah, complete the list of contents of this brilliant sheet.

The Shooting of the Rebel Commodore Hollins and Colonel Harman. (From the Richmond White, March 13.) It is reported, on authority which seems entitled to some credit, that Commodore Hollins and Colonel Harman were killed at Waynesboro, after the defeat of General Early at that place. The statement is that he surrendered to two Irish-Yankee soldiers who immediately assassinated him.

It was also reported yesterday that Commodore Hollins, of the navy, was killed in Albemarle county by a party of Union cavalry, who were on their way to the woods in company with Mr. Jefferson Randolph, at whose residence he had been stopping, when he was suddenly shot down.

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SHERMAN.
His Forces at Laurel Hill, N. C., on the 8th Inst.

ALL WELL AND DOING FINELY.

Interesting Rebel Accounts of His March.

Details of the Occupation of Winnsboro, South Carolina.

PROBABLE OCCUPATION OF FAYETTEVILLE, &c., &c., &c.

Secretary Stanton to General Dix.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14—11 A. M. Major General Dix, New York—

Despatches direct from Generals Sherman and Schofield have been received this morning by this department. General Sherman's despatch is dated March 8, at Laurel Hill, N. C. He says:—

"We are all well, and have done finely. Details are for obvious reasons omitted."

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Our Special Washington Despatch. WASHINGTON, March 14, 1865. No doubt is entertained by military authorities here that Gen. Sherman has reached Fayetteville, N. C., without a battle or engagement of any kind, except cavalry skirmishing. At this point he will be joined by Schofield's army, and be re-supplied with rations and ammunition, and sweep onward toward Richmond with as little difficulty as he has heretofore encountered. This direct communication with General Sherman, and the assurance of his complete success, notwithstanding the boasting and bragging of the Richmond press, show that their hopes of stopping his progress are of little value. If they could not stop him before, they are powerless to arrest his progress now, after his arrival at a new base of supplies, the reinforcement of his army by that under command of General Schofield, and with Sheridan destroying every avenue of food, forage, powder, lead and salt into Richmond, and threatening the defenses of the rebel capital itself.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

How Sherman's Troops Behaved at Columbia According to the Rebel Stories. (From the Richmond Enquirer.) The Columbia South Carolinian, now published at

Charlottesville, N. C., gives the following interesting account of the occupation of Columbia by the federal troops, and the circumstances and incidents attendant:—

As before stated, the departure of our forces from Columbia took place on Friday morning, the 10th February. The noisy excitement which had marked the preceding three days now gave way to the calm of the morning which found expression only in the heavy hearts and anxious faces of the people. Of the fate of the stores for which they were all alike ignorant, they were not fearful. Whether Sherman would cut out his throat to "burn the very stones" of the obnoxious State, or, on the contrary, pass a mild and lenient course, were doubts which were yet to be solved. The citizens had not long to wait. The rear of our army having passed through between ten and eleven o'clock, a white flag, displaying a surrender from the steep hill of City Hall, announced the surrender of the town. About twelve the federals entered. They had postponed the river above, and were now in the city. The playing, drum corps, &c., &c., &c., and their men in step, the army marched down Main street, then to the square. Here the cheering and shouting of the people was more and more vocal patriotism, placed on exhibition from the roof of the old and new State Houses. For the purpose of enhancing the festive character of the scene, or of "adding insult to injury," or of gratifying some other curious fancy, the ceremony of raising the flag was, we were assured, performed by two negroes, who were the first entering the city claimed by the Fifteenth corps. A singular feature of the military procession, and of which we have heard no explanation, was the driving of a carriage, profusely decorated with Northern flags, in front of the column.

THE PILLAGE. General good order and quiet attended the entry; but, as the troops were halted for several hours on Main street, stores and dwellings soon became objects of much attention, and the worst of general looting commenced. From this time until the last Yankee left town person or property were safe from the impulsive intrusions upon their property. Single plunderers were everywhere, and the riffling of the army were to be met in every street and almost every house. If they wanted a pair of boots they took them from your feet. Watches were in constant demand—by anybody but a negro, who was not from the persons of the best ladies in the city. Gentlemen on the street quickly learned to appreciate the old phrase "Linger, my son, for the enemy is known notary public, P. S. Jacobs, Esq., was one of the pupils. He is said to have received two lessons; price—each each. Ear and finger rings were taken by force, and, in isolated cases, the dresses of ladies were torn from their bodies by villains who expected to find jewels or plate concealed. Search for silver and precious stones was made in every conceivable place. Furniture was used as probes to indicate where boxes were buried, and gardens, out-houses, cellars, garages, chimneys and nooks never thought of by anybody but a negro, were searched of plunder were turned, so to speak, inside out. In one instance it is reported that a box of valises worth a large round under a door step. We learn that the estimate of this character of property stolen is about two millions of dollars. Many of the robbers who perpetrated personal violence were intoxicated by liquor found in the city. Rev. Mr. Stand, the Episcopal clergyman, while conveying a trunk containing the communion service of silver from the church to the South Carolina College, was accosted by a Yankee and a negro, who compelled him, under a threat of death, to give up, which was done. While one of the cups was afterwards being used for drinking water, a federal soldier—an Irishman—recognized the sign of the cross upon it, took it from the fellow and carried it to Rev. Dr. O'Connor, the Catholic priest, who it was reported was restored to the owner. This description of pillage continued until the troops left.

THE CONFLAGRATION. In the afternoon the fire which had occupied Main street moved into quarters in the various public grounds and vacant lots. No fire occurred on Thursday, save such as were ignited by our own officials. The first fire on Friday was given soon after the entry of the enemy, and proceeded from the burning of a row of cotton on Main street, between Washington and Lady streets. In fifteen or twenty minutes about a dozen of the jail, which has been used as a Confederate prison, was set on fire. The bells rang, the engines promptly rallied, and proceeded as usual to their work. The fire was extinguished except by drunken soldiers, who here and there cut the hose with their pocket knives; but all efforts to save the flames were unavailing. Among the prisoners released were North Carolinians, who were several men, confined on the charge of counterfeiting, and it is said, a federal prisoner. Why he was not removed with his comrades does not appear. It is reported that he subsequently married a lady in Columbia.

The grand conflagration which destroyed the city commenced about dusk. The fire started near the rear of the jail. A high wind prevailed, and in a short time the flames were in full and unquenchable progress, spreading rapidly in three directions—up and down Main street and eastward. The fire department again rallied, and from ten until three o'clock in the morning the scene is described as appalling. The sky was a broad sheet of flame, above which, amid the thick smoke, drifted in eddying circles a myriad of sparks. Three, falling, scattered the seeds of conflagration on every side. The millions of the roof, leaving a black tongue of flame, as they careered on their wild course, alone filled hearts with dismay. The air was like that of a furnace. Many of the streets were impassable, and the men, women and children ran in all directions, some only to flee again from the fresh attacks of the destroying element. Property of various kinds was burned or stolen. Many of the federal soldiers, maddened by liquor, dashed through the city with lighted torches to enflame the dwellings yet untouched. It is further reported to have broken loose, and to be indulging in a diabolic revel.

Morning revealed to some extent the broad sweep of destruction—four thousand or more citizens, homeless and homeless. From the State House to Cotton Town, and an average of two or three squares on each side of Main street, from the front of the city to the rear, remained. Every vestige of the once busy street was gone.

INCIDENTS, &c. The Sisters of Mercy were removed from the convent to the residence of General Fisher during the conflagration, by order of General Sherman, who is reported to have been "burned out," no less than three times during the night. If true, he certainly ought to be a pardoned man.

While the fire was raging many of the citizens took refuge in Sidney Park; some in the woods of the suburbs; but the next day the fire was in full and unquenchable progress, spreading rapidly in three directions—up and down Main street and eastward. The fire department again rallied, and from ten until three o'clock in the morning the scene is described as appalling. The sky was a broad sheet of flame, above which, amid the thick smoke, drifted in eddying circles a myriad of sparks. Three, falling, scattered the seeds of conflagration on every side. The millions of the roof, leaving a black tongue of flame, as they careered on their wild course, alone filled hearts with dismay. The air was like that of a furnace. Many of the streets were impassable, and the men, women and children ran in all directions, some only to flee again from the fresh attacks of the destroying element. Property of various kinds was burned or stolen. Many of the federal soldiers, maddened by liquor, dashed through the city with lighted torches to enflame the dwellings yet untouched. It is further reported to have broken loose, and to be indulging in a diabolic revel.

Several Yankees, who were too much intoxicated to escape from the flames, were burned to death. One of these was found in the office of the South Carolinian by our forerunners.

Twenty-seven Yankees were instantly killed, and about twenty more dangerously wounded, on Saturday, while the burning of the city was in progress. Some of the soldiers who were killed, were burned to death. One of these was found in the office of the South Carolinian by our forerunners.

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